

City of Baraboo
Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting
Dec 13, 2021 – Minutes

Present: R. Franzen, S. Mordini, J. Francisco, A. Workman, H. Kierzek, A. Witczak, and C. Schlender
Other members: Friends of the Baraboo Community Skatepark, Trent Capaul (& 5 supporters)

Franzen called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Legal posting of the Agenda has been met.
Witczak motioned and Mordini seconded approval of the Nov. 8, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Witczak moved to approve the agenda as printed, seconded by Schlender. Motion carried.

Action Items

a. Discuss and consider improvements to Campbell Park skatepark

Trent Capaul presented his history of involvement in the skatepark project. The fundraising campaign effort started in 2017; \$23,000 has been raised by the Friends of the Baraboo Skatepark so far. A Giving Tuesday Facebook campaign is now in place, looking to raise \$300,000. The plan is to remain located at Campbell Park. In talking to community members, a lot of the reserve in supporting the effort is the location. Capaul also voiced location concerns but admits needing to meet with Hardy to review an open lands map for other possible locations. Capaul has not submitted any grant applications yet, but the group is able to based on their non-profit status. The original skatepark was installed in 2002. The plan is a complete rebuild of the park. He and supporters are using the experience of Des Moines, Iowa, ("America's largest skate park") as inspiration for a draw of interested skaters.

b. Discuss and consider recommendation to move the Riverwalk connection between Mary Rountree Park and Lower Ochsner Park to allow for better accessibility and visibility

Tom Pinion's email with feedback on the proposed change was reviewed, which highlighted the drawbacks of a mid-block crosswalk. Pinion's recommendation is to designate part of 2nd Ave west "No Parking" on both sides, allowing a 4-ft wide on-street path on each side of the road. Discussion focused on what exists now being better than what was there before. Mordini noted that the current pitch of the sidewalk on the north side of the street is not navigable for wheelchairs. She also commented that the ultimate goal would be to purchase the property at the end of the block across from Lower Ochsner Park (at a future date). Mordini motioned to change the current Riverwalk path from the north to the south side of the street, building a sidewalk on the south side, installing a 4 ft-wide bike path on the south side of 2nd Ave, and constructing an end of the block street crossing to the Lower Oschner Park entrance with accompanying RRFB's, seconded by Witczak. Kierzak asked who would be responsible for installing the sidewalk if it is part of the Riverwalk, the City or the homeowners. Hardy noted that sidewalk issues would need consideration from the Public Safety Commission and input from City Engineer as to whether it could be approved and ultimately who would be responsible for construction and maintenance. Motion carried.

c. Discuss and consider allowing overnight camping at the Civic Center Thursday, June 16, 2022 for the Bike Wisconsin GRABAAWR bicycle tour

Hardy reported this group starts in Wausau and travels down to Prairie du Chien via bicycles. They would be charged \$680 with staff provided overnight. Wiczak motioned to allow camping of the GRABAAWR tour for \$680, seconded by Francisco. Motion carried.

d. Discuss and consider additions to the proposed 2022-2026 CORP

The CORP Plan goes before the City Council tomorrow night. Changes were made to the language of pg 17, part D ("Special Use Area Planning") re: Deppe Park. Changes to pg 19, part D ("property Acquisition") regarding expanding Deppe Park and extending the Riverwalk on the south side between Vine and Walnut St for new Riverfront Park, using TIFF funds and Brownfield clean up. Highlighted projects and budget amounts were added to the Table 9: Five Year Action Plan. Franzen

motioned to accept the CORP plan as presented to City Council, seconded by Francisco. Motion carried.

Informational Items

a. Staff Report submitted by Hardy.

Revenues were \$9,571.38 for the month of November 2021.

1) Review Park and Zoo Projects

A new Parks Maintenance employee was hired; Scott Kaufman is moving into the position from the Streets Dept. Now there is a position open in the Streets Dept.

2) Review Recreation and Pool Programs - No report

b. Subcommittee reports

1. Friends of Baraboo Parks (Witczak)

Still raising money for the Splashpad ($\frac{3}{4}$ funded) and Challenge Park ($\sim\frac{1}{3}$ funded). If funds are not raised by the end of the year for the Splashpad, it will not be built in 2022. Remaining gap is \$80-160,000 for Splashpad, and \$50,000 remaining for the Challenge Park. In the new year, the grant not awarded last year could be reapplied for.

2) Bicycle Advisory Committee

The committee presented its preferred route plan to Brian Simmert and Cassandra Fowler of Sauk County during the committee's regular meeting on Nov. 11. Bicycle Advisory committee members available met Nov. 17 at 1:30 pm at City Hall with Mike Hardy, Simmert/Fowler, and new County Engineer Intern to walk through proposed area changes (staying south of the river for path). Simmert expressed strong doubt that the necessary easement agreements for the GSST could be secured from the three property owners (St. Vincent de Paul, Wisconsin & Southern RR, and State Historical Society) to place the trail south of the river. Additionally, he estimated that to conduct a proper engineering survey for the ~100 yard section that would require an elevated bike path due to slope would cost \$80,000. The idea of building a bridge (parallel to the existing RR trestle over South Blvd) was rejected because there does not seem to be enough physical space for the 30-ft separation required from the existing RR track. The option of continuing west on 2nd Ave/Shaw St to Willow St into West Baraboo was also rejected because "there are a lot of driveways" on Willow St and he would have to get approval from West Baraboo. Simmert proposed that the county's existing plan to build switchbacks up the hill from Lower Ochsner to Upper Ochsner Parks and cross at Draper St was the best option, which was rejected by committee members present as it would add congestion to an already highly congested intersection. The proposed route modification to turn east onto Gall Rd to Lake St north of DLSP was also rejected because Simmert said the idea behind funding of the GSST was economic development, and diverting the trail from the winery defeated the purpose; committee members said spur routes and maps would be sufficient to direct riders to points of interest without having to take the main state trail directly past attractions. It seems unlikely that any of the proposed changes of the Bicycle Advisory committee will be adopted by the county planners.

Next scheduled meeting: Jan. 10, 2022 at 5:30 pm

Workman motioned and Witczak seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:24 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Workman, Secretary, Parks & Recreation Commission